REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5 and 12-14 remain pending in the application. New claims 15-17 have been added. New claims 15 and 16 are method claims corresponding to claims 12 and 13, respectively.

Regarding the previous objections and questions about support in the specification for the claims, Applicant has extensively revised the pending claims and added new claims 15 and 16 which should conform to current U.S. practice. It is believed that these claim amendments should satisfy 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including

Application No. 09/667,802

extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP

enneth W. Berner

Kenneth M. Berner

Registration No. 37,093

USPTO Customer No. 22429 1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 300 Alexandria, VA 22314 (703) 684-1111 (703) 518-5499 Facsimile Date: January 22, 2004

KMB/JD